

# Indiana Receives National Award

The Indiana DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology received the first ever “National Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnership Award” from the National Park Service. This award was presented by Jon Smith, Assistant Director of the National Park Service at the statewide preservation conference in New Albany on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The award recognizes 35 years of work by the Division to systematically survey every county in the state to identify and document historic buildings and structures. Undertaking surveys of cultural resources is required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Indiana is the first state in the nation to have completed such a statewide survey of its historic resources. The last remaining county survey was completed in 2012. Two other entities shared in this award: Indiana Landmarks – Indiana’s statewide non-profit preservation organization, and ARCH, Inc. – a regional non-profit preservation organization in Fort Wayne that works throughout northeastern Indiana. These two organizations partnered with the Division to complete the 92 county surveys.

The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory began in the mid-1970s. The types of historic resources documented in these surveys include houses, commercial buildings, schools, churches, libraries, farmsteads, government buildings, bridges, and cemeteries. Each resource documented is at least 50 years old. The information gathered from surveys helps the Division determine which properties may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the Indiana Register. In addition, the survey provides information about historic buildings that may be affected by state and federal projects.

Now that every county has been documented once, efforts to resurvey every county are under way in order to keep the information up-to-date. Since 2007, survey fieldwork has been completed electronically. Instead of clipboards and paper forms, surveyors now use tablet PC units, digital cameras, and GPS units to record information. The survey data is uploaded into a publicly accessible database hosted by the Division. This database makes a wealth of information readily available to researchers, government agencies, and the general public.